

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 4737

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA AT THE NAC

REF: A) STATE 153345

B) JIDDA 4625 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY:

THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR DABBAGH, INFORMS US THAT THE SAG AGREES FULLY WITH THE ROK POSITION THAT EITHER BOTH KOREAS SHOULD BE ADMITTED TO THE NAC OR NEITHER, THE LATTER BEING MORE LOGICAL. HE IS NOT CONFIDENT THAT MUCH CAN BE DONE TO SUPPORT THE ROK AT THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE BUT HE WILL EXPLORE THE PROSPECTS. DABBAGH PERSONALLY FAVORS SAG ATTENDANCE AT THE NAC PRIMARILY TO SUPPORT THE ROK, BUT MINSTATE PRINCE SAUD AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MAS'UD ARE PRESENTLY OPPOSED. DABBAGH ASKS OUR HELP IN PREPARING FOR THE CONFERENCE IN CASE THE SAG DOES GO BY PROVIDING HIM WITH THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY PAST NAC MEETINGS. END SUMMARY

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1. ON JUNE 29 WE RAISED THE QUESTION OF SAG SUPPORT

FOR SOUTH KOREA AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND CONFERENCE AFFAIRS, AMB. ZEIN DABBAGH. HE CONFIRMED THAT ROK AMBASSADOR YOON HAD APPROACHED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT YOON HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE SAG COMPLETELY SHARED THE ROK VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE ABSURD FOR NORTH KOREA TO BE ADMITTED TO THE NAC WHILE SOUTH KOREA WAS EXCLUDED. EITHER BOTH SHOULD BE ADMITTED OR NEITHER.

2. DABBAGH SAID THAT HE WAS NOT SURE HOW MUCH SAUDI ARABIA COULD DO TO HELP. IT WAS NOT EVEN CERTAIN THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD ATTEND THE NAC AT LIMA. WE SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING THE DELEGATES TO THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE: A NUMBER OF THE DELEGATIONS ATTENDING WOULD ALSO BE AT THE NONALIGNED CONFERENCE AND SOME MIGHT BE ONLY TOO HAPPY TO PLEASE SAUDI ARABIA. DABBAGH SAID THAT AMB YOON HAD ALREADY RAISED THIS POSSIBILITY. HE WAS DOUBTFUL HOW EFFECTIVE THIS MIGHT BE SINCE THE ISSUE COULD NOT BE ON THE AGENDA, BILATERAL AND CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT. HE THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE A GOOD CHANCE OF INFLUENCING EGYPT AND KUWAIT. THOUGH NEITHER MIGHT BE BROUGHT TO THE POINT OF SUPPORTING THE ROK AT THE EXPENSE OF NORTH KOREA, THEY MIGHT AT LEAST BE BROUGHT TO SUPPORT A BOTH OR NEITHER POSITION.

3. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF SAG ATTENDANCE AT THE NAC, DABBAGH SAID THAT IT PRESENTLY LOOKED AS IF THE SAG WOULD NOT GO. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER M.I. MAS'UD WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ASSOCIATING WITH A BUNCH OF COMMUNISTS AND FAR LEFTISTS WHO COULD NOT BE INFLUENCED. MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD AL FAISAL WAS INCLINED TO AGREE WITH MAS'UD. HE HAD NO INTENTION OF WASTING HIS OWN TIME AT THE CONFERENCE AND SEEMED TO THINK THAT NO ONE ELSE SHOULD WASTE THEIRS EITHER. DABBAGH SAID THAT HE DISAGREED WITH BOTH. HE THOUGHT THAT SINCE SAUDI ARABIA WAS MEMBER IT SHOULD BE PRESENT AND MAKE ITS VIES KNOWN IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE FORM. HE HAD SENT A MEMO TO THIS EFFECT TO PRINCE SAUD. WITHOUT ATTENDING, CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE WOULD PROBABLY BE LITTLE THAT THE SAG COULD DO TO HELP THE ROK CAUSE.

4. DABBAGH ASKED OUR OPINION OF SAG ATTENDANCE. WE RECOLLECTED THAT THE LAST NAC CONFERENCE ATTENDED BY SAUDI ARABIA AT ALGIERS WAS A SHAMBLES IN WHICH THE VOICE OF THE MODERATES WAS COMPLETELY LOST. DABBAGH SAID THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE OF THIS AS HE HAD BEEN

POSTED ABROAD AT THE TIME. WE ALSO REMARKED THAT IF THE SAUDI DELEGATION WERE TO GO AND TAKE AN ESSENTIALLY PASSIVE POSITION, THE EFFECT WOULD BE TO LEND THE CONSIDERABLE PRESTIGE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO DECISIONS WHICH THE SAG DID NOT ENDORSE. DABBAGH SAID THAT IF HE WERE HEADING THE DELEGATION THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE. HE WOULD ENERGETICALLY PUSH THE SAUDI POSITION.

5. DABBAGH SAID THAT IN CASE IT WAS DECIDED TO BE REPRESENTED HE WANTED TO BE PREPARED. HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY'S FILES WERE WOEFULLY INADEQUATE, AND ASKED IF WE COULD OBTAIN FOR HIM THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY EACH NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE SINCE BANDUNG. WE SAID THAT WE WOULD INQUIRE IF THEY WERE AVAILABLE.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT THE DEPARTMENT POUCH US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE VARIOUS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCES (AT LEAST THE LATEST ONES) IF THEY ARE REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND THAT WE BE INFORMED BY TELEGRAM IF THIS CAN BE DONE.

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